

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
Salem District, Cascades Resource Area

DECISION RECORD

Cascades Resource Area
Invasive Non-Native Plant Management

Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR-080-02-02

Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah and Linn Counties, Oregon

A. Background

A copy of the EA can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, OR, 97306. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., closed on holidays.

B. Decision

The decision is for the Cascades Resource Area, BLM to implement a long-term integrated invasive non-native plant management program on federal lands within the Cascades Resource Area (CRA). This decision would implement the seven goals identified in Partners Against Weeds (an Action Plan for the BLM), January 1996.

Goal 1: Prevention and Detection

Goal 2: Education and Awareness

Implementation of Goals 1 and 2 are the foundation for a long-term successful weed management program. These goals are the priority for the integrated weed management program.

Goal 3: Inventory

Goal 4: Planning

Goal 5: Integrated Weed Management

Goal 6: Coordination

Goal 7: Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Technology Transfer Program
Implementation

Goals 1-4 provide the greatest opportunity to control and contain the invasive non-native weed problem over time through early detection and reducing the spread and introduction of new species to the resource area.

Goal 5 deals with the direct treatment of invasive plants. An appropriate combination of methods including cultural, physical, biological, and chemical would be used to control invasive non-native plants.

Cultural treatments include prevention, wildlife management, and competitive plantings with native seeds/plants to prevent invasive non-native plant introductions or to minimize spread.

Physical treatments include manual control by hand-pulling or grubbing, mechanical methods such as mowing, and prescribed burning treatments.

Biological treatments include using natural competitors such as insects and pathogens. Biological controls are implemented with the assistance of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Chemical treatments include the use of herbicides. Any chemical use would be in accordance with the Record of Decision for the Vegetation Treatment on :LLM Lands in Thirteen Western States Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (1991), the Northwest Weed Control Program EIS, any new Agency direction, and the manufacturer's label.

Goal 6 would be achieved through coordinated weed management activities with local, State and Federal agencies, and private landowners. Coordination would include partnership projects on non-federal lands within Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion and Linn Counties with the BLM and using federal monies. Projects would be consistent with direction in the EA. Invasive non-native plants know no boundaries so it is imperative that partner opportunities are developed. Projects would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine risks to human health, agricultural crops and the environment.

Goal 7 establishes that monitoring would be conducted annually to determine the overall effectiveness of the program and evaluate treatments.

The areas proposed for treatment will be reviewed annually to avoid impacts to Special Status plants and animals as well as cultural resources.

C. Alternatives Considered

Two alternatives were considered in detail; Alternative B was an integrated plan similar to Alternative A, the proposed action, except that it did not include the use of herbicides. A no-action alternative was not analyzed because federal law requires that invasive non-native plants be controlled on federal land. Descriptions of the alternatives analyzed in detail are contained in the EA, pp 3-7.

D. Reasons for the Decision

I have selected the proposed action alternative for the following reasons:

The proposed action puts emphasis on prevention, detection, education, and awareness.

The program would include partnerships with local government and private landowners.

It provides for human health and safety.

The proposed action is flexible to deal with the dynamic nature of the invasive non-native plants problem which includes many different plant species, changing populations and plant locations, and changing inventory and treatment technologies.

Implementing an integrated invasive non-native plant management program provides a variety of treatment methods that would maintain and promote healthy functioning ecosystems.

It is in compliance with Federal laws that mandate the management of invasive non-native plants (*Federal Land Policy and Management Act* of 1976, *Federal Noxious Weed Act* of 1974).

This Decision is in compliance with management direction established in the *Salem District Resource Management Plan* (RMP - May, 1995). This Decision is tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) as Supplemented (March 1987) and the *Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States EIS* (1991). The RMP provides a comprehensive ecosystem management strategy for BLM managed lands in the Salem District in strict conformance with the *Northwest Forest Plan* and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994) and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (January, 2001).

E. Public Involvement and Comment Period

A description of the proposal was included in the Salem Bureau of Land Management *Project Update* which is mailed to more than 900 individuals and organizations four times each year. On February 14, 2003, the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were mailed to 37 groups and agencies that were on the mailing list and a legal notice requesting public comment to the EA and FONSI appeared in the *Statesman Journal*. The EA was made available for public review for thirty days. One positive letter endorsed the proposal during initial scoping. No comments were received during the comment period.

F. Implementation

Implementation of this decision may begin 30 calendar days after the public notice of the Decision Record appears in the *Statesman Journal* newspaper.

G. Right to Appeal

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. Your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2804.1 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Board and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

H. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Barbara Raible, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE Salem, OR 97306; telephone (503)375-5687.

Approved by: _____


Brad Keller

Acting Cascades Field Manager


Date